



WEB COPY

CONT P No. 1036 of 2026



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 27-03-2026

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE T. VINOD KUMAR

CONT P No. 1036 of 2026

B.Sasikala Devi

Petitioner

Vs

1. Dr.P.Senthilkumar, IAS
Add. Chief Secretary to Government,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Health And Family Welfare Department, Chennai.

2.Dr.D.K.Chitra
Director of Medical And Rural Health Services, DMS
Compound, Chennai-6

3.Suresh Kumar,
Hospital Superintendent,
Government District Headquarters Hospital,
Mannargudi 614 001, Tiruvarur Dist.

Contemnors

PRAYER Contempt Petition filed under Section 11 of the Contempt of Courts Act, to punish the respondents for wilful disobedience of the order of this Court, dated 06.09.2019 in W.P.No.6911 of 2010.

For Petitioner: Ms.R.Abirami

For Respondents: Mr.E.Sundaram,
Government Advocate



ORDER

This Contempt Application is filed to punish the respondents for their wilful disobedience of the order of this Court, dated 06.09.2019 in W.P.No.6911 of 2010.

2. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Government Advocate for the respondents and perused the records.

3. A co-ordinate bench of this Court while disposing of the aforesaid W.P.No.6911 of 2010, directed as under:-

“9.It is submitted that due to the pendency of this writ petition, the petitioner has not got any pensionary benefits. The respondent shall calculate the pensionary benefits as if she remained as Nursing Superintendent Grade III and disburse the same to the petitioner forthwith within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of copy of the order.”

4. Though on behalf of the petitioner, it is contended that despite this Court directing the respondents to disburse the monetary benefits within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of the order, the respondents did not comply with the order.

5. The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that despite the petitioner following up the matter with the respondents, the respondents kept the



issue pending and as such, the petitioner was constrained to file the present contempt case on 18.12.2025.

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6. I have taken note of the aforesaid submission made on behalf of the petitioner.

7. At the outset, it is to be noted that Section 20 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 prescribes the limitation period of one year for initiating contempt proceedings.

8. This Court by order dated 01.06.2023 in Cont.P.Nos.2599 & 3033 of 2025 and Cont.P.No.2706 of 2025 had considered the scope of Section 20 of the Contempt of Courts Act and Article 215 of the Constitution of India, and also as to what would constitute continuing cause of action.

9. This Court having regard to the law declared by the Hon'ble Apex Court had held that Section 20 of the Contempt of Courts Act, being a specific provision, the contempt petitions have to be filed within one year when the cause of action arises.



10. In the facts of the present case, the cause of action for the petitioner to initiate contempt action against the respondents arose on expiry of four weeks time granted by this Court from the date of receipt of a copy of the order dated 06.09.2019. The petitioner not only did not take any action thereafter within time prescribed under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, on the other hand had approached this Court by filing the present contempt case nearly six years later.

11. Having regard to the decision of the Hon'ble Apex Court and also of this Court, this Court is of the view, that the present contempt petition cannot be entertained.

12. Accordingly, this Contempt Petition is dismissed. There shall be no order as to costs.

27-03-2026

vum

Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Neutral Citation: Yes/No



To

1.Dr.P.Senthilkumar, IAS
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Government of Tamil Nadu, Health
And Family Welfare Department,
Chennai

2.Dr.D.K.Chitra
Director of Medical And Rural Health
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